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Note on the New Theatre



TO justify its purpose, the New Theatre must produce better plays in a better manner than is done by any other management. In this, to state the case frankly, it has failed signally. The least important matter connected with the production of a play is its scenic investiture. Shakespere got along without any scenery at all. Yet it is only in its stage settings that the New Theatre has shown first rate ability. In its selection of plays its judgment has been, almost invariably, at fault; and the members of its large company often have been miscast.

Finally, when it was obliged to go outside its own repertoire and secure an outside production, it showed such shocking want of taste as to prove, conclusively, that only radical changes in the management can bring the enterprise into line with the intentions of those, who, liberally and unselfishly, have founded this institution for elevating and ennobling the American drama.

There is ample opportunity for an institution like the New Theatre. In fact there is absolute need of it. But those into whose hands the management

THE of the institution is placed, must be qualified to
LOTUS appreciate the higher literary and dramatic taste to
which the Founders intended it to appeal.

Evidence of any such appreciation on the part
of the management has been lamentably lacking.

Gustav Kobbe'

